

#17 *Dasyilirion wheeleri* / *Bouteloua curtipendula* Shrub Savanna Association

Common sotol / Sideoats grama Shrub Savanna Association

This shrub savanna community is characterized by a sparse (<10%) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by common sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*) and a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). Common sotol (*D. wheeleri*) provides a consistent 5% cover across the community, with some areas up to 8%. Beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*) is generally quite sparse (2%) but can occasionally become co-dominant with or more dominant than common sotol (*D. wheeleri*). Other noteworthy shrubs include evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), and Wright’s silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*). Sideoats grama (*B. curtipendula*) provides around 14% cover, ranging from 8 up to a high of 30%. While typically the dominant perennial grass, this species may occasionally be co-dominant with or second dominant to cane blue-stem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), and/or tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*).

Common species

Dasyilirion wheeleri
Nolina microcarpa
Cercocarpus montanus
Bouteloua curtipendula
Heteropogon contortus

Overall, this community covers 2.9% (56 ha, 138 ac) of the park, predominately on moderately steep (15–50%), south- to southeast-facing mountain backslopes and summits at 1,760–2,080 meters (5,774–6,824 ft). The primary examples of this community are on the slopes of Bob Thompson Peak and in the area of Coronado Peak.

